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RUEHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY 0214  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1464  
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY 0228  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 3051  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 0536  
RUEHYN/AMEMBASSY SANAA PRIORITY 0012  
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY 3167  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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AMEMB ADDIS PLEASE PASS TO USAU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/17/2017

TAGS: PGOV PREL NO

SUBJECT: NORWAY'S VIEW ON PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTACT GROUP ON SOMALIA

REF: STATE 111993

Classified By: P/E Chief Kristen F. Bauer for reasons 1.4 b and d

¶1. (C) On 16 August we delivered reftel points to Norwegian MFA Desk Officer for Somalia, Kjell Dalen. Norway fully supports granting permanent observer status in the International Contact Group on Somalia to Canada and Yemen. Dalen noted that State Secretary Raymond Johansen told A/S Frazer this at the last talks in London. Dalen also emphasized Norway's support for granting permanent observer status to South Africa noting its current role in the Security Council. Despite their support, Dalen recognized the possible negative consequences of opening up the Group to further members. While it is positive that more nations should express interest in Somalia, a large increase in participating nations and organizations could potentially make the group less productive. Also, a more clear distinction needs to be established between the status of members and permanent observers. In spite of these concerns, Norway believes the International Contact Group on Somalia would benefit from Canada and Yemen's participation.

WHITNEY